From the Director
Ramona Toussaint

Pablo Picasso said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist when we grow up.” The world is crying out for more “grown up” creative thinkers and yet tends to look at the creative aspects of children as something that happens incidentally, accidentally or just pure entertainment.

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Meet Our Team
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Meet a closer look at our talented staff. Karla Batres, can’t get enough of the creative stuff.

Give the Gift of Art to a Child Today!
Bobbi Valley Memorial Fund helps children experience art that inspires.

Creative Quote of the Week
“Whatever you do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, and power and magic in it.”
— Goethe

Art Spotlight
Imagination, Illustration, Improvisation Generation!

Camps will spend this week drawing funny expressions and hilarious animals, while they develop figure drawing skills, superhero identities, and master comic strip/book storyboarding and design. Mornings focus on illustration techniques like transfer/copy art, perspective, shading, and adding dimension to characters. Afternoons add a 3-D element bringing characters to life with mobiles, clay and optical illusion. We are thrilled to welcome OTR iMPROV as our guest artist this week!

OTR iMPROV is a professional theater improvisation group who will take the campers’ characters and bring them to life on the spot! Started in 2010, OTR iMPROV is based at The Know Theater in the Over-The-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati. Dave Powell, one of the directors, spoke with us earlier this week about coming to Camp Art Academy. He said, “In our shows, we are focused on breaking the ‘fourth wall’ of the theater. We will invite campers into the creative process as it is happening, as we bring campers on stage with us. We’ll have some real improvational fun!”

OTR iMPROV works under the “Yes, and?” philosophy, meaning that when a camper suggests an idea, then in that moment, they accept it and build on it. Dave holds a Bachelors degree in painting, and described how “Yes, and?” has helped him in his own art-making. “I want to show the campers that through improvisation, you can learn to destroy your own inner critic. Why stop yourself from being good?” We can’t wait to discover more about our creations and about ourselves with this talented group of actors!

More information about OTR iMPROV is available at www.otrimprov.com. Shows are held 8:00-10:00 PM on the first Monday, third Tuesday, and final Friday of each month. The Know Theater is located at 1120 Jackson St. OTR 45202
From the Director...continued

Not you. And not at Camp Art Academy. You have chosen this award-winning program for your child, because we go beyond arts and crafts to make the connection between artistic creativity and idea generation for strong problem solving skills as well as personal development and satisfaction intrinsic to successful, happy, healthy children. You wanted a unique experience- and we delivered.

This is the place that will empower your child’s artistic abilities and build self-confidence, giving them the proper tools, support and encouragement to pursue a life of creativity. So on our last week of camp my words to you are, “Don’t stop!” The Art Academy offers plenty of opportunities for artists and art advocates, young and old, to ignite interest, expand potential and maybe... create a whole new you! I’ll paraphrase Marsha Norman, “Dreams are illustrations from the book of your soul.” So find a way to #GoAheadCreateYourself; take a class, volunteer your time, donate to the Bobbi Vallery Memorial Fund to give the gift of creativity. Remember, the world is crying out! Answer the call.

Enjoy the rest of your summer from the Camp Art Academy Staff.

In Inspiration,
Ramona Toussaint
Camp Art Academy Director

p.s. I want to thank our dedicated Art Academy staff, amazing guest artists and hosts this summer who follow their creative dreams and helped make this one of the best camps yet: The Weston Art Gallery, Drake Planetarium, Silk Road Textiles, Bach and Boombox, OTR-iMROV, and Mark Clark- LEGO artist. You all blew me away!

Meet Our Team

Can’t Get Enough Of That Creative Stuff, Karla Batres

Karla Batres is in her senior year pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture at the Art Academy. She’s a three-time summer Camp Art Academy Instructor Assistant veteran and works in the AAC Community Outreach office part-time during the school year! She loves this place!

What is your artistic background?

KB: I am a first generation Mexican American – my parents are from Mexico – and I was lucky to be able to experience two cultures as a kid, with two languages, different holidays, and different food. Because we visited family in Mexico every year, I was exposed to the beautiful colors, music, and folk art of that country. All of which you can see in my art; I feel a deep connection with that heritage.

In high school I was awarded by the prestigious, Scholastic award, for the opportunity show my paintings in Chicago and New York. That support was important. It encouraged me to pursue art in college. I discovered how much I loved sculpture; working with texture, color, and pattern and using my hands.

What do you love about Camp Art Academy?

KB: The variety! The campers really get a huge array of experiences! This camp really focuses on education – the campers learn about other cultures, artists, and materials, so they gain experience from new things. I also love that all of the instructors and assistants are trained artists with something unique to contribute. We are constantly learning new ideas from each other, and it really fuels the creativity of the whole experience.

Keep Up with Your Camper!

See all of the wonderful things your child is doing in camp by connecting with us on social media.

@aaccommunityed
#GoAheadCreateYourself